

**MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIM**  
**U.S. REISSUE APPLICATION**

1. (Amended) A method for ensuring the operation of signaling channels in a V5 interface between a local exchange and an access node, the interface comprising:
  - reconfiguring V5 interface data in an interface composition having at least two signaling channels; and
  - ensuring active operation of protected signaling channels when starting a V5 interface, wherein the protected signaling channels are stated on at least one of signaling channels defined in a new interface composition, and on signaling channels to which the protected signaling channels were transferred in a protection switch-over.